

# Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Bruce H. Munson, President  
[bmunson@d.umn.edu](mailto:bmunson@d.umn.edu), 218-724-7534

Sandi Francis, Executive Assistant  
[sfrancis@gac.edu](mailto:sfrancis@gac.edu) 507-934-0893

## MACTE Minute, November 13, 2009

The Minnesota Association of the Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) presents the following MACTE Minute for your consideration. It was MACTE's intention to present a summary of our recent statewide meeting and congress. The three day event in October engaged 158 participants in professional development and continuous improvement. The theme for the three days was "Rethinking Schooling." The theme represented MACTE's ongoing commitment to innovation in support of teaching and student learning.

After seeing the agenda for today's meeting of the Board of Teaching, we felt we needed to revise our MACTE Minute. However, the theme is still the same, "Rethinking Schooling." Schools and their students are changing, but we continue to need qualified, effective teachers. On the BOT agenda today is a significant item about launching rulemaking to revise MN Rule 8700.7600. This item has to be one of the most significant topics that will face this Board. It will require considerable thought and caution. After all, the Board is ultimately charged with protecting and providing for the education of Minnesota's children through qualified, effective teachers. The rules governing teacher licensure are key in meeting that charge.

In order to ensure Minnesota children are provided good opportunities to learn, Minnesota rules require teacher preparation programs ensure new teachers have participated in university studies and supervised P-12 classroom experiences with curriculum, instruction and assessment in teaching the content and levels of students for which the new teachers will be licensed. Minnesota currently has strong standards that ensure even the freshest beginning teachers have backgrounds and guided experiences preparing them for success. Minnesota has achieved recognition and status as an outstanding state for education because of its standards. This fact was pointed out by John Silvestro of Pearson in his presentation at our recent MACTE meeting. It is also supported by Minnesota's continuing status as the number one state in composite ACT scores for the past five years. While there is always room for improvement, we need to take care to maintain effective teaching and learning in Minnesota.

In potentially revising MN Rule 8700.7600 the Board needs to ensure it doesn't weaken the standards for preparing teachers. MACTE institutions embrace the movement towards innovative programming in teacher education. MACTE is rethinking schooling. We believe innovative approaches must be of high quality. All Minnesota children deserve to have prepared, qualified, effective teachers. Much like the profession of medicine, education needs to have its practitioners – teachers – gain knowledge, skills, and supervised experiences BEFORE they are allowed to practice on their own. Teacher preparation programs must continue to meet high standards for seeing proper preparation is provided before beginning teachers are employed.

"Alternative program" has become a buzz phrase in education. For some young people it is synonymous with "short-cut." In some states well-intentioned young people and those who just want a temporary job can try a short-cut to entering the profession of teaching. Current Minnesota rules make it clear that standards guide the preparation of those who are prepared for a teaching license. Short-cuts are not the rule in Minnesota.

MACTE trusts the Board will continue to uphold high standards for the preparation of all Minnesota teachers. We look forward to working with the Board of Teaching to ensure Minnesota maintains its reputation as an outstanding state for the education of its young people.

---

MEMBERS: Augsburg College ▪ Bemidji State University ▪ Bethel College ▪ Bethany Lutheran College ▪ Carleton College ▪ Capella University ▪ College of St. Benedict/ St. John's University ▪ College of St. Scholastica ▪ Concordia College ▪ Concordia University ▪ Crown College ▪ Gustavus Adolphus College ▪ Hamline University ▪ Martin Luther College ▪ Metropolitan State University ▪ Minnesota State University, Mankato ▪ Minnesota State University Moorhead ▪ North Central University ▪ Northwestern College ▪ Southwest State University ▪ St. Catherine University ▪ St. Cloud State University ▪ St. Mary's University of MN ▪ St. Olaf College ▪ University of Minnesota–Crookston ▪ University of Minnesota–Duluth ▪ University of Minnesota–Morris ▪ University of Minnesota–Twin Cities ▪ University of St. Thomas ▪ Walden University ▪ Winona State University ▪